

REMARKS

The Office Action objected to the drawings. In response, the Applicant files concurrently with this paper a set of formal (not replacement) drawings. The Applicant requests entry and consideration of the formal drawings.

The Office Action objected to the disclosure, stating that “programmable interconnect circuitry 112” in paragraph 038, at page 11 of the application, should read “121.” The Applicant thanks the Examiner for bringing the typographical error to the Applicant’s attention. With this paper, the Applicant amends that paragraph to change “112” to “121,” as the Office Action suggests.

Substantively, the Office Action rejected claims 1-6, 9-24, 27-30, 33, and 39-52 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,219,286 to Fuchigami et al. (“Fuchigami”); rejected claims 7, 8, 25, 26, 31, and 32 as obvious over the combination of Fuchigami and U.S. Patent No. 4,747,080 to Yamada (“Yamada”); and rejected claims 34-38 as obvious over the combination of reference C6 disclosed by the Applicant, and Fuchigami.

Although the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections of, and objections to, the claims (for example, the Office Action ignores some of the terms in the original claims), the Applicant with this paper amends claims 1, 5-9, 18, 23-26, 30, and 41, without prejudice. By making the amendments, the Applicant seeks to facilitate compact prosecution and to expedite the issuance of a patent, and to more particularly point out and distinctively claim the inventive subject matter. The Applicant respectfully submits that Fuchigami and Yamada, either singly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious the amended independent claims and, hence, also the dependent claims.

The Office Action further objected to claims 6-8 and 23-26 for lacking antecedent basis for “the plurality of circuit blocks” and “the programmable circuit elements”; and “the coding of the coded signals,” respectively. Given the amendments made to the claims (see details above), the Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments have overcome the objections, and that the claims at issue have proper antecedent bases.

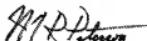
In view of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the presently pending claims are allowable. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests a prompt Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in allowable condition. Consequently, favorable reconsideration and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If any fees other than the fee for the extension of time are due for any of the enclosed materials, please deduct such fees from (or credit any overpayment to) deposit account number 50-3813/ALTR-023.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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